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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Decision on Petition

In re Patent of Karney and Friedling Patent No. 5,988,097

Issue Date: November 23, 1999 Application No. 09/197,987 Filing Date: November 23, 1998

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ELEVATION

This is a decision on the petition filed August 10, 2004, under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The patent issued November 23, 1999. The last day of the grace period for paying the 3.5 year maintenance fee was November 23, 2003. Therefore, since this petition was filed within twentyfour months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), this petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

Accordingly, the maintenance fee in this case is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is hereby reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

This file is being forwarded to Files Repository.

Telephone inquiries should be directed to Petitions Attorney Steven Brantley at (703) 306-5683.

Charles Steven Brantley

Petitions Attorney Office of Petitions